

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 09577 201347Z

46

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 /013 W
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P R 201144Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6418

INFO USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 9577

E.O. 11652: NOMA
TAGSJCC OEXCRN NI
SUBJ: IOWA WRITERS PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 198161 (B) LAGOS 8253

1. POST SUBMITS BIODATA ON OBI EGBUNA, NOMINEE FOR SUBJECT PROJECT
AS FOLLOWS:

FULL NAME: MR. OBI BENEDIC EGBUNA
PRESENT POSITION: NOVELIST, PLAYWRIGHT, ESSAYIST

PAST POSITIONS: JOURNALIST FOR VERAL YEARS IN LONDONOV
EDITOR, "UNITED AFRICA "IN LONDON"
DIRECTOR, ECBS-TV, ENUGU;
DIRECTOR, STATE WRITERS' WORKSHOP, ENUGU

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 14 AUG 2013]; ENUGU, ANAMBRA STATE
PRESENT CITIZENSHIP: NIGERIAN; NONE PREVIOUS
PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO THE US: AAI GRANT 1967

PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES: GREAT BRITAIN
PREVIOUS USG GRANT : AAI - 1967

ACADEMIC TRAINING: BAPTIS HIGH SCHOOL, PORT HARCOURT:
OKONGWU MEMORIAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NNEWI;
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LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY, LEICESTERSHIRE,

ENGLAND

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: HONORABLE

SOCIETY OF THE INNER TEMPLE (LAW)

PUBLICATIONS: (1) "WIND VERSUS POLYGAMY" -- PUBLISHED BY FABER;

(2) "THE ANTHILL"-- PUBLISHED BY OXFORD UNIVERSITY
PRESS;

(3) "DAUGHTERS OF THE SUN -- PUBLISHED
Y OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS;

(4) "THE MINI TER'S DAUGHTER" -- FONTANA
PUBLICATION;

(5) "DESTORY THIS TEMPLE"

(6) "EMPEROR OF THE SEA" -- FONTANA PUBLICATION

MARITAL STATUS : MARRIED - ONE CHILD - MALE 6 YEARS

KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE: EXCELLENT

KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER LANGUAGES : IGBO

CULTURAL INTERESTS: LITERATURE, DRAMA, ETC. (GRANTEE'S PLAY

WAS THE BRITSH ENTRY AT THE FIRST WORLD

FESTIVAL OF NEGRO ARTS, DAKAR, SENEGAL)

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS: AUTHORS, POETS, ACTORS, DIRECTORS, AND

AS GRANTEE HOPES TO PLAY VITAL ROLE IN

FOUNDING OF SERIOUS FILM STUDIO (COMPANY) IN NIGERIA, WOULD LIKE TO
MEET PEOPLE IN THE FILM AND GENERAL CREATIVE WORLD.

PLACE OF INTREST: WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SERVERAL U.S. CITIES.

AVOCATIONAL INTRESTS: AS ABOVE

WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK TO AMERICAN AUDIENCE: YES

LARGE GROUP

SUGGESTED TOPIC: "AFRICAN WRITER IN WORLD LITERATURE"

EMERGENCY NAME & ADDRESS: C/O MRS. B.G. EGBUNA

SCHOOL OF NURSING

UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

ENUGU

REASONS FOR NOMINATION: OBI EGBUNA IS YOUNG,; TALENTED AND

PERSONABLE WRITER WHOS VOICE IS

GAINING INCREASED RECONGNITION. HE IS ONLY SERIOUS WRITER IDENTIFIED

AS ELEGIBLE AND/OR AVAILABLE FOR THIS YEARS' IOWA PROJECT. HIS MOST

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RECENT WORK, "EMPEROR OF THE SEA" (A SATIRE), WAS DESCRIBED BY ONE
REVIEWER AS "AN ELABORATE AND HIGHLY ARTISTIC ATTEMPT TO SEND SOME
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MESSAGES HOME." EGBUNA'S FICTIONAL WRITING
ABILITY IS EQUALLY MATCHED BY VERSATILITY, DEMONSTRATED BY HIS HAVING
SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF TELEVISION, ECBS, AND DIRECTOR OF THE STATE
WRITER'S WORKSHOP, ENUGU UNDER THE FORMER REGIME. THUS DURING
THIS GRANT PERIOD AT IOWA NOMINEE CAN BE EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM
AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY PAUL ENGLE.

OBJECTIVES OF US VISIT: IN SUPPORT OF FY-77 CPP OBJECTIVES III

AND IV, GRANT TO THIS INFLUENTIAL WRITER

WOULD SERVE TO WIDEN CIRCLE OF INDIVIDUALS ABLE TO ACCURATELY
INTERPRET AMERICAN SOCIETY IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY AS HE SEES NOR
HIMSELF THE TECHNICAL AND SOCIAL GAINS MADE SINCE HIS LAST VISIT.
DIALOGUE WILL HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL
COUNTERPARTS AND MUTUALITY WILL BE WELL SERVED, ESPECIALLY GIVEN

HIS DESIRE TO RETURN TEACH IN AN AMERICAN INSTITUTION.

2. NAME CHECK SATISFACTORY, VISA ELIGIBLE.

3. ALTERNATE IS MR. EDDIE OKECHUKWU IROH
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
ECBS RADIO AND TELEVISION
ENUGU
CAHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: OEXC, NI
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